

B1
Cont mechanism 20 can be coupled to the condenser lens 2 to aid in moving the lens 2 in the direction of the optical axis 7 so as to adjust the distance between the sample 6 and the diffraction image plane 8.

On page 44, please replace the first full paragraph, with the following:

B2
Though the optical axis of condenser lens 2 and the optical axis of the objective lens 10 are held in parallel in this embodiment, they may be configured such that the angle of optical axis of condenser lens 2 with respect to the optical axis of objective lens 10 is made variable.

When the angle of optical axis of condenser lens 2 is changed, the diffracted light participating in observation can be altered, whereby the image information for seeing the texture and orientation can be enhanced. In one embodiment, a mechanism 21 can be coupled to the condenser lens 2 to aid in adjusting or aligning the direction of the diffracted light participating in the observation.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

B3
1. (Twice Amended) An optical microscope apparatus, comprising:

illuminating means having a single light source for emitting an illumination light which converges at a point in a space;

a sample mounting table for mounting a sample in front of said converging point of said illumination light; and

an objective lens positioned after said converging point such that said illumination light is incident thereon,